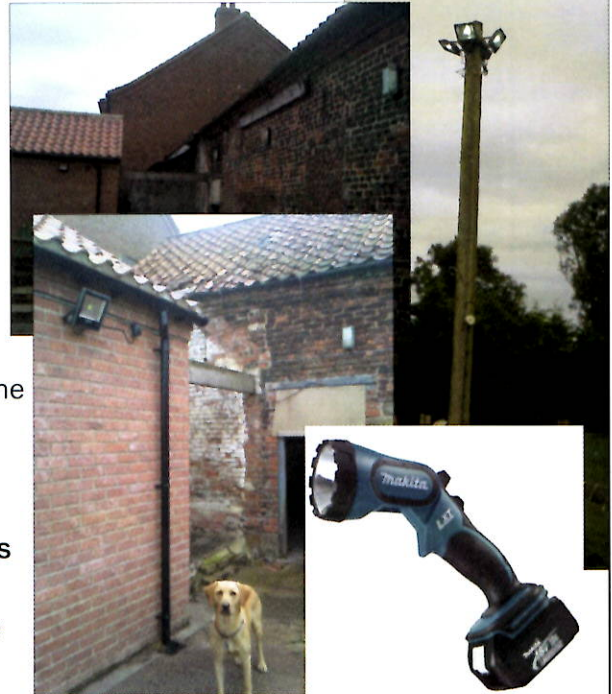


## Lights 4 Winter Nights

So as winter once again approaches we hope you're all making your preparations to cope with the cold dark and wet. Anything that makes life better, safer and easier is a bonus. We've all been there, fumbling around in the dark with an inadequate flashlight trying to feed/find pigs in the dark and swirling weather, now the Autumn equinox is behind us the nights are now longer than the days and before long it will be dark at both ends of the working day which makes life that little more difficult. The solution is lighting be it portable or permanent.

When we decided that we were going to take our pig keeping activities seriously we decided to invest in lights for the paddocks and yards. Our buildings are lit by inexpensive fluorescent tubes and outside we obtained an old telegraph pole on which we have four floodlights on a switch from the buildings and the yards are lit by PIR & bulkhead lights. Everyone has an electrician friend who for half a pig I'm sure would do some of the wiring work. Screwfix, Machine Mart, D&M Tools and Argos all sell good lighting hardware, their extensive catalogues are good bedtime perusing! **(Right selection of lights at Fowgill— Dezi dog over seeing photographer!)** A Makita rechargeable 18v torch is highly recommended as our portable choice.



If you don't have access to electricity there are portable solutions available. Argos has a good selection of camping lights which are good to use in remote buildings and arks and all the previously mentioned suppliers all have extensive torch and head torch ranges from battery operation to rechargeable available. If you want to have portable electric lighting Machine Mart do lightweight, quiet running, portable petrol generators which can be connected up to standing 'work' lights to give an arc of light across a good area.



You must remember however when setting up lighting it and its wiring or extension leads should be out of piggy reach and away from any materials that take fire from any heat given off. Unless you are competent yourself a word with your electrician friend to check the work over is a good idea.

In winter a generator is also useful if you are subject to power cuts, there are lots to choose from petrol, diesel and PTO driven depending on your requirements and budget. A good camping stove is also worthwhile having on standby with some spare gas bottles. Amazon, Halfords, and Argos are worth a look.



Words & pictures Mandy Garbutt